($930.00) to cover the corresponding extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(a)(3) and 1.136(a).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 3-11 and 19.

Substitute claims 1, 2, 18, 26 and 27 with amended claims 1, 2, 18, 26 and 27:

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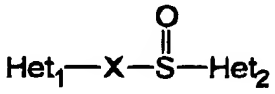
1. In a method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion which consists of administering to a host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, the improvement characterized by:

extending the blood plasma profile level of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor by two or more consecutive oral administrations of a unit dose of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor with 0.5 4 hour intervals,

wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I

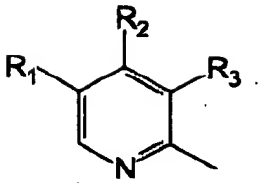


I

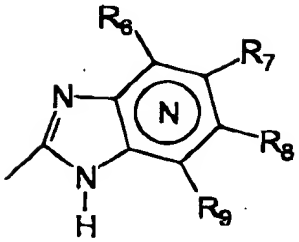
wherein

Serial No.: 08/945,425
Filed: October 21, 1997

Het_1 is

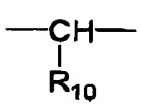


Het_2 is



J' cont

X =



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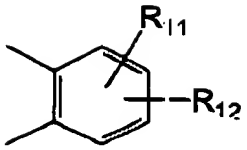

wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

1' cont

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

2. (Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1, 18, 26 or 27, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, an alkaline salt of omeprazole, the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole and an alkaline alt of the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole.

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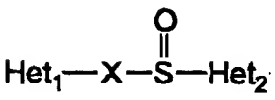
18. (Four times amended) In a method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion which consists of administering to a host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, the improvement characterized by:

1 2

extending the blood plasma profile level of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor by two or more consecutive oral administrations of a unit dose of [, and] the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor with 0.5 - 4 hour intervals,

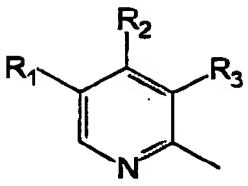
wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibit r is a compound of the formula I



I

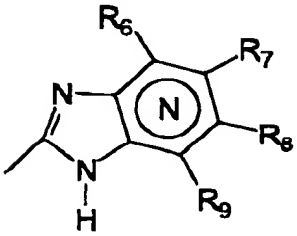
wherein

Het_1 is



Het_2 is

J2 cont



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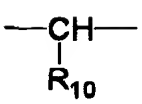
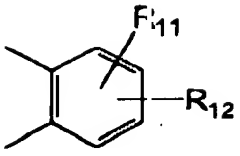


or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl

with the proviso that the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.

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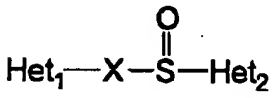
26. (Thrice amended) In a method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion which consists of administering to a host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, the improvement characterized by:

extending the blood plasma level profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor by two or more consecutive oral administrations of a unit dose of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor with 0.5- 4 hour intervals,

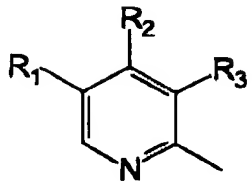
wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



I

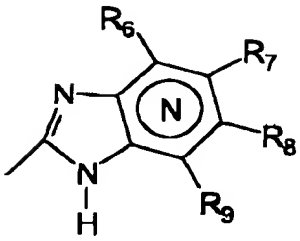
wherein

Het_1 is



J3 cont

Het_2 is



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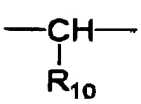

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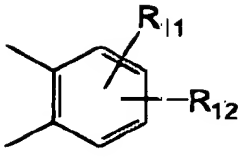


wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

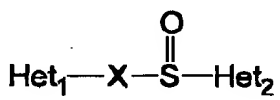
R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

J3 cont

27. (Thrice amended) In a method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion which consists of administering to host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, the improvement characterized by:

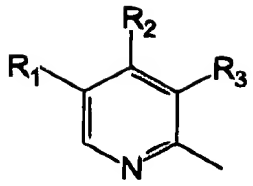
extending the blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor by two or more consecutive oral administrations of a unit dose of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor with 0.5-4 hour intervals, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



I

wherein

Het_1 is



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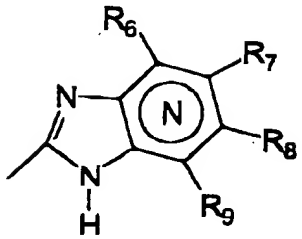

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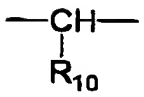

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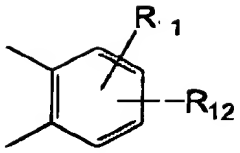

wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;